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To the Electors of the County of Grenville.

GENTLEMEN!

It is now known that a general Election will shortly take place, as the Proclamation dissolving the House of Assembly and calling a new one appeared in the last Official Gazette. Under these circumstances, I can no longer delay to present myself as a Candidate for the honor of Representing you in the next Provincial Parliament, though I did hope some other person professing the same views would have been brought forward.

Upon the important question of Responsible Government, which seems chiefly to engross the public mind, I think the demands of the late Executive Council unconstitutional and cannot be supported by precedent; and if granted, will render the Governor a mere automaton in the administration of public affairs, and will deprive Her Majesty of all authority of influence in the Country, in fact, it would virtually abrogate our Constitution, and ultimately, if not immediately, sever it from the Parent State; on the other hand, I concur entirely in the view taken of it by His Excellency the Governor General, which he briefly defines in the followings words, viz. *"that the Government should be administered according to the well understood wishes and interests of the people; that the resolutions of September 1841 should be faithfully adhered to; that it should be competent to the Council to offer advice, on all occasions, whether as to patronage or otherwise; and that the Governor should receive it with the attention due to his constitutional advisers, & consult with them in all cases of adequate importance; that there should be a cordial co-operation and sympathy between him and them; that the Council should be responsible to the Provincial Parliament and the people, & that when the acts of the Governor are such as they do not choose to be responsible for, they should be at liberty to resign, then I entirely agree with you, and see no impracticability in carrying on Responsible Government in a Colony on that footing, provided that the respective parties engaged in the undertaking be guided by moderation, honest purpose, common sense and equitable minds devoid of party spirit."*

These, Gentlemen, are the principles of the Governor General which I find are fully and unreservedly sustained by Her Majesty's Government in England, and the Imperial Parliament, in which politicians of all parties approved of the Governor's conduct on this important question. If in the administration of the Government of the Province, His Excellency carries out these principles, then Gentlemen, if I am returned to represent the County of Grenville, I shall give his Government my full and unequivocal support, but not otherwise. For if we desire to continue as an appendage of the British Crown and enjoy its protection, as is so universally professed, what more can we want, than the liberal concessions here made, by which the people of this Country will hereafter be enabled to exercise their just influence in the administration of the Government, and ensure the enactment of good and wholesome laws, provided that they use the right of selecting proper persons to represent them with judgment, and a desire to perpetuate such blessings, uninfluenced by sectional feeling or party spirit.

To party government I am a decided opponent. I desire to see the benefit of good Government extended to all classes of

the people without distinction of origin or creed; and to secure such an administration of it, if elected your representative, I shall devote my whole energy, supporting the rights of the Crown on the one hand, and guarding the liberties of the people both civil and religious on the other, when any attempt shall be made to invade them.

I will direct my whole attention during the sitting of Parliament to the public benefit, and will not desert my post when my services might be most required to defend your interests.

I will oppose every measure calculated to curtail the rights of the people, or to oppress them by unjust taxation; let it emanate from what source it may; the measures or intrigues of party shall receive no support or countenance from me.

With respect to the public measures of the late Council, I do not approve of the removal of the seat of Government to Montreal, by which a great injury has been inflicted on the prosperity of Upper Canada, and entailing on the Province an addition of some £80,000 or £100,000 to our already too burthensome debt, for public buildings at Montreal; or of the bill for altering the representation of this section of the Province in Provincial Parliament by which it was reduced from 42 to 37 members, while Lower Canada remained untouched, thereby giving her a preponderance of 8 members in the Legislature; or of the bill to increase the local taxation in the several Districts of Upper Canada, by which money, house-hold furniture and every description of personal property, the hard earnings of the Farmer, Mechanic, Artizan and labourer, were to be taxed, while Lower Canada was to go free, and be allowed, as heretofore, to put her hands into the public chest to build her Goals, Court-Houses, pay the expenses of the administration of Justice and of all other local matters, for which the inhabitants of Upper Canada have to submit to local taxation; or of the Common School Bill of which you have had practical experience; and to carry it into operation, I am told the District will have to pay in Taxes this year nearly £2000 independent of the Government appropriation; or of the bill abolishing District Councils and establishing County and Township Councils with much additional machinery and increased expenses, which the people will have to pay; or of the Customs bill, by which numerous unnecessary offices were created merely as a source of patronage for party purposes, regardless of the enormous expense attending the execution of the law, which would also have to be paid by the people. These, Gentlemen, are some of the leading measures introduced by the late Council into Parliament during the last Session, and if elected your representative, I should offer every opposition in my power to prevent their becoming the law of the land, unless under material modifications and also made application to Lower Canada; for I feel that it is most oppressive to Upper Canada to have heavy assessment laws to defray the expenses of her local affairs while Lower Canada is permitted to pass untaxed for similar purposes.

I shall meet you at the Hustings, on the day of Election, where I will explain my views more fully and will then feel thankful to all those who approve of my principles for their support and confidence which I will not betray.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,
HAMILTON D. JESSUP.
Prescott, 30th Sept. 1844.

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